

2018 Current Fiscal Year Report: Boston Harbor Islands National Recreation Area Advisory Council

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1. Department or Agency

Department of the Interior

2. Fiscal Year

2018

3. Committee or Subcommittee

Boston Harbor Islands National Recreation Area Advisory Council

3b. GSA Committee No.

5222

4. Is this New During Fiscal Year?

No

5. Current Charter

02/25/2008

6. Expected Renewal Date

02/25/2010

7. Expected Term Date

8a. Was Terminated During Fiscal Year?

No

8b. Specific Termination Authority

8c. Actual Term Date

9. Agency Recommendation for Next Fiscal Year

Continue

10a. Legislation Req to Terminate?

Not Applicable

10b. Legislation Pending?

Not Applicable

11. Establishment Authority Statutory (Congress Created)

12. Specific Establishment Authority

P.L. 104-333

13. Effective Date

11/12/1996

14. Committee Type

Continuing

14c. Presidential?

No

15. Description of Committee Non Scientific Program Advisory Board

16a. Total Number of Reports

No Reports for this Fiscal Year

17a. Open Meetings and Dates 0 17b. Closed Meetings and Dates 0 17c. Partially Closed Meetings and Dates 0 Other Activities 0 17d. Total Meetings and Dates 0

No Meetings

Current FY Next FY

18a(1). Personnel Pmts to Non-Federal Members

\$0.00 \$0.00

18a(2). Personnel Pmts to Federal Members

\$0.00 \$0.00

18a(3). Personnel Pmts to Federal Staff

\$0.00 \$0.00

18a(4). Personnel Pmts to Non-Member Consultants

\$0.00 \$0.00

18b(1). Travel and Per Diem to Non-Federal Members

\$0.00 \$0.00

18b(2). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Members

\$0.00 \$0.00

18b(3). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Staff

\$0.00 \$0.00

18b(4). Travel and Per Diem to Non-member Consultants

\$0.00 \$0.00

18c. Other(rents,user charges, graphics, printing, mail, etc.)	\$0.00	\$0.00
18d. Total	\$0.00	\$0.00
19. Federal Staff Support Years (FTE)	0.00	0.00

20a. How does the Committee accomplish its purpose?

The Boston Harbor Islands Advisory Council's purpose is to advise and make recommendations to the Boston Harbor Islands Partnership on the development and implementation of the general management plan for the islands, including ongoing park operations. The Council has two seats on the Boston Harbor Islands Partnership, as required by P.L. 104-333. The Council is the primary mechanism used by the Partnership to consult with the public on matters of park planning and management, doing so through public meetings, workshops, and other general public forums. The Partnership regularly consults with the Council at Partnership meetings, Partnership Committee meetings, and Advisory Council meetings. In 2016, the Council members gave regular feedback throughout the year on on-going operational issues . The council revised its bylaws and continues to figure out how to structure itself to become more effective. The Council also looked at ways to reinvigorate membership.

20b. How does the Committee balance its membership?

The membership of the Boston Harbor Islands Advisory Council is constituted in accordance with P.L. 104-333. It consists of 28 voting members representing 7 groups with interests in the park, including municipalities; educational and cultural institutions; environmental organizations; business and commercial entities, including those related to transportation, tourism and the maritime industry; Boston Harbor-related advocacy organizations; and organizations representing Native American interests; and community groups.

20c. How frequent and relevant are the Committee Meetings?

The Council did not meet in FY 2018. The Boston Harbor Islands Advisory Council typically holds four meetings per year. Due to low membership and NPS staffing limitations, there were only three meetings held in CY 2016. The meetings focused on issues related to Council membership and bylaws, community outreach efforts, celebrating 2016 (NPS 100th, park's 20th, and Boston Light's 300th) anniversaries, general operations, and discussed the Council's role as a FACA committee and as a voting member of the Boston Harbor Islands Partnership.

20d. Why can't the advice or information this committee provides be obtained elsewhere?

The Boston Harbor Islands Advisory Council was established by the Congress in P.L.

104-333 to advise the Boston Harbor Islands Partnership on issues related to the development and implementation of the integrated resource management plan and ongoing operation of the park. The Council, which has two seats on the Partnership, is mandated to seek advice from concerned citizens and organizations that have an interest in the park.

20e. Why is it necessary to close and/or partially closed committee meetings?

All meetings are open.

21. Remarks

(1) EXPECTED CHARTER RENEWAL DATE -- Pursuant to the Commission's enabling legislation (P.L. 104-333), the biennial rechartering provisions of section 14 of the Federal Advisory Committee Act are waived for the Council. (2) EXPECTED COMMITTEE TERMINATION DATE/SPECIFIC TERMINATION AUTHORITY -- The enabling legislation anticipates the Commission will exist into the foreseeable future, without termination. The Council did not meet in FY 2018.

Designated Federal Officer

Michael Creasy General Superintendent, National Parks of Boston

Committee Members	Start	End	Occupation	Member Designation
Abel, Gregory	01/06/2017	01/06/2020	Chapel Hill-Chauncy Hall School	Representative Member
Caten, Neal	10/21/2014	10/20/2017	MA Boating & Yacht Clubs Assoc.	Representative Member
Daly, Christopher	01/06/2017	01/06/2020	Eurotainer	Representative Member
Deschenes, Heather	10/21/2014	10/20/2017	New England Aquarium	Representative Member
Ellis, Jane	11/05/2015	11/05/2018	Make-A-Wish Foundation of Massachusetts and Rhode Island	Representative Member
McCabe, Edward	01/17/2017	01/17/2020	Hull Lifesaving Museum	Representative Member
Moir, Rob	10/21/2014	10/20/2017	Ocean River Institute	Representative Member
Woods, Susan	11/05/2015	11/04/2018	Save the Harbor Save the Bay	Representative Member

Number of Committee Members Listed: 8

Narrative Description

No meetings were held this fiscal year. The mission of the Boston Harbor Islands National Recreation Area is to make the Boston Harbor Islands system--with opportunities for education, recreation, and restful solitude within an urban area--an integral part of the life of the region and the nation by protecting the islands and their associated resources while

at the same time improving public knowledge and access. The Advisory Council supports the park's mission by advising the Boston Harbor Islands Partnership on operational issues and by serving as a conduit for public opinion. The Advisory Council is the primary mechanism of the Partnership to consult with the public on matters of park planning and management. Members of the Council encourage the involvement of individuals and communities (both geographic and affinity groups) in park management issues by providing information about the park and delivering the feedback they receive back to the Partnership. The Council supports the goals defined in the park's strategic plan.

What are the most significant program outcomes associated with this committee?

Checked if Applies

Improvements to health or safety	<input type="checkbox"/>
Trust in government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Major policy changes	<input type="checkbox"/>
Advance in scientific research	<input type="checkbox"/>
Effective grant making	<input type="checkbox"/>
Improved service delivery	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Increased customer satisfaction	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Implementation of laws or regulatory requirements	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Outcome Comments

The Council did not meet in FY 2018. The Council provides regular input about long-term planning for the park as well as the input about day-to-day operations and demonstrates citizen participation. The Council also provides constructive criticism on a wide variety of park issues. The Council commented on the park's draft general management plan on 7/28/2000. Several members and their organizations also sent in written comments during the public review. The Council held a series of 8 public meetings to gather public opinion on the park's general management plan in June 2000. The Council prepared a park report card from 8/19/2000 to 10/9/2000. This report card gave a rating to Partnership regarding their success. The report card also contained several recommendations about improving facilities, programming and water transportation systems. In the summer of 2000, the Council recommended that partners give a clear statement about their plans and intentions to contribute capital and operating funds to the park's current strategic plan. On 3/7/2001, the Council prepared a position on a proposed new Logan Airport runway. On 9/12/2001, the Council recommended that park managers should partner with MBTA & Massport to improve park water transportation systems. The Council participated in development of a Native American Media Project in 2003. From January 8 to December 20, 2003, the Council developed a community outreach strategy plan during a series of

public workshops. This process identified stakeholders and obstacles to community involvement. The plan included recommendations about facility improvements as well as suggestions for new events and program offerings that would attract new park users. The Council reviewed and commented on the Visitor Experience and Resource Protection Initiative on September 3, 2003. The Council submitted a statement on its position regarding wind energy development in the park on 12/3/2003. The Council gathered public comments on the Peddocks Island Adaptive Reuse of Fort Andrews Project on 9/7/2005. On 1/17/2006, the Council submitted a statement on their opposition to a liquefied natural gas facility being sited on Outer Brewster Island. The Council presented an analysis of park's strategic plan on 3/1/2006. This report analyzed the success of the Partnership and contained several recommendations for improvement. The Council submitted a list of park priorities to the Partnership on 3/5/2008. This list identified 66 recommendations, and the 10 they suggested as top priorities for the Partnership to focus on. The Council reviewed and commented on a branding initiative spearheaded by the park's non-profit partner, Boston Harbor Island Alliance on 12/5/2007. The Council gathered public comment about Georges Island Pier Project on 11/19/2008. The council participated in several committee workshops as part of the process of developing the park's 2016 strategic plan. They provided both written and verbal comments during the planning process. (The plan was adopted by the Partnership on 9/15/2009). The Council recommended the park start a Facebook page at the annual meeting on 3/3/2010. The Council was invited to review a draft communication guide in June 2010. The Council submitted a list of issues at the 9/15/2010 meeting that managers should consider when developing a pet policy. On 12/01/2010, Council members made further recommendations that managers should consider when developing a pet policy. On 6/6/2012, Council members gave specific feedback about moorings, marina operations, and dock infrastructure. On 9/12/2012, Council members gave input on the park's Call to Action plan and solid waste initiative. On 5/18/2013, the Council held a public workshop presenting the 2013 Boston University Master of City Planning and Urban Affairs Symposium Team's Advisory Plan. The Advisory Plan gave recommendations for updating the park's general management plan. Council members recommended the park take action on the Advisory Plan. On 4/10/2014 and 4/11/2014 the Council participated in a workshop to advise and assist in the development of a State of the Park report. 2015 was a year of reflection and mobilization for the Council. There were no formal recommendations made by the Council as a whole, but much work was done laying the groundwork for increasing public participation in park management. 2016 was a year of rebuilding, much focus was put on increasing membership and understanding council structure, and goal setting. Due to low membership and NPS staffing limitations, there was only one meetings held in FY 2017. The meeting focused on issues related to Council membership and bylaws, community outreach efforts, celebrating 2016 (NPS

100th, park's 20th, and Boston Light's 300th) anniversaries, general operations, and discussed the Council's role as a FACA committee and as a voting member of the Boston Harbor Islands Partnership.

What are the cost savings associated with this committee?

Checked if Applies

None	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unable to Determine	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Under \$100,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$100,000 - \$500,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$500,001 - \$1,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$1,000,001 - \$5,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$5,000,001 - \$10,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
Over \$10,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cost Savings Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Cost Savings Comments

Not Applicable

What is the approximate Number of recommendations produced by this committee for the life of the committee?

22

Number of Recommendations Comments

No formal recommendations were put forth by the Council in 2018. No formal recommendations were put forth by the Council in 2017. No formal recommendations were put forth by the Council as a whole in FY 2016. The Council gives recommendations on an ongoing basis. Observations and comments are ongoing. Council members advise in a variety of ways: they participate in working committees of the Partnership, and advise during the process of product or policy development; they serve as voting Partners on the Boston Harbor Islands Partnership; and, they and members of the public give valuable insights to managers at the quarterly Advisory Council meetings. The Council is also involved in outreach efforts to increase public participation in the dialogue about management of the park.

What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Fully implemented by the agency?

27%

% of Recommendations Fully Implemented Comments

The Council gives regular feedback to the Boston Harbor Islands Partnership. Observations and comments are ongoing and discussions are consensus based. The Boston Harbor Islands Partnership listens to the members of the Council on all aspects of Partnership deliberations. The Council will often submit multiple recommendations in one document or at one meeting. Managers often agree with 90% or more of the content, and do incorporate the Council's recommendations into plans and actions but there is not always funding available to fully implement.

What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Partially implemented by the agency?

59%

% of Recommendations Partially Implemented Comments

The Council gives regular feedback to the Boston Harbor Islands Partnership. Observations and comments are ongoing and discussions are consensus based. The Boston Harbor Islands Partnership listens to the members of the Council on all aspects of Partnership deliberations. The Council will often submit multiple recommendations in one document or at one meeting. Managers often agree with 90% or more of the content, and do incorporate the Council's recommendations into plans and actions but there is not always funding available to fully implement.

Does the agency provide the committee with feedback regarding actions taken to implement recommendations or advice offered?

Yes ☒ No ☐ Not Applicable ☐

Agency Feedback Comments

The Agency provides feedback through updates at Partnership, Advisory Council, and committee meetings. Partnership members and the Superintendent, the DFO, attend meetings so there is an exchange of information. When appropriate, feedback is provided by email, fax, mail, social media or web pages.

What other actions has the agency taken as a result of the committee's advice or recommendation?

Checked if Applies

Reorganized Priorities	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reallocated resources	<input type="checkbox"/>
Issued new regulation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Proposed legislation	<input type="checkbox"/>

Approved grants or other payments

☐

Other

☐

Action Comments

Is the Committee engaged in the review of applications for grants?

No

Grant Review Comments

Not Applicable

How is access provided to the information for the Committee's documentation?

Checked if Applies

Contact DFO

☒

Online Agency Web Site

☒

Online Committee Web Site

☒

Online GSA FACA Web Site

☒

Publications

☒

Other

☐

Access Comments

Not Applicable